

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /052 W

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R 191346Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4845

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY

CSAF WASHDC

XOXXGIF WASHDC

OASD/ISA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS VIENNA 1428

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJ: AUSTRIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF "AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
DOMINICK STORY"

REF: VIENNA 1200, 1220, 1278, 1315

DEPARTMENT FOR BRUCE FLATIN EUR/CE

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, IWE, IOP/M

1. SUMMARY: VIENNA'S PRESTIGIOUS INDEPENDENT "DIE PRESSE"
ON FEBRUARY 18 CARRIED SPECIAL REPORT BY BERN CORRESPONDENT
PETER AMSTUTZ STRESSING SWISS RESENTMENT OF AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE PETER DOMINICK'S REMARKS. WASHINGTON AND BERN DENIALS
WERE CONTRASTED WITH THE SUSPICION OF SWISS PUBLIC OPINION THAT
THERE IS SOMETHING TO THE OVERFLIGHTS STORY. END SUMMARY.

2. TRANSLATED EXCERPTS FOLLOW: NO ONE IN BERN REALLY BELIEVES
THAT FORMER AIR FORCE COLONEL AND NOW DIPLOMAT DOMINICK SIMPLY
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MADE UP THIS HORROR STORY ABOUT FOREIGN BIRDS WISHING TO FLY IN

SWITZERLAND'S NEUTRAL AIR SPACE. CONTRARY TO HIS PREDECESSOR WHO IS STILL IN OFFICE, DOMINICK DID NOT GET HIS JOB IN SWITZERLAND BY CONTRIBUTING 100,000 DOLLARS TO NIXON'S CAMPAIGN, AND THE YALE LAWYER VERSED IN FINANCIAL AFFAIRS ENJOYS THE REPUTATION OF A MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT HE SAYS. IN ANY CASE, THE "BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE SWISS" AS HE HAS DEFINED THEM, HAVE BEEN ALARMED BY HIS STATEMENTS. IN WASHINGTON "BRIEFINGS," HE IS BEING PREPARED FOR WHAT AWAITS HIM IN BERN, AND RUMORS IN SWITZERLAND NOW HAVE IT THAT IN THE COURSE OF THIS TRAINING HE PERHAPS RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT "AIR TALKS" IMPERILING NEUTRALITY. AMERICA'S EFFORT TO ESTABLISH AN AIR ROUTE FROM ENGLAND AND GERMANY VIA SWITZERLAND TO THE MIDDLE EAST IS UNDERSTANDABLE. ALSREADY IN THE YOM KIPPUR WAR, AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANES OFTEN FLEW OVER SWITZERLAND. BERN AT THAT TIME LODGED PROTEST IN WASHINGTON AND OFFICERS OF THE SWISS AIR OFFICE WERE THEN PERMITTED TO INSPECT IN FRANKFURT THE CARGOES OF AMERICAN PLANES. BERN IS NO LONGER REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THIS RATHER EXTENSIVE POLICY OF NEUTRALITY (WHICH ENTAILS SUCH ARRANGEMENTS). THE DIRECTOR OF THE SWISS AIR OFFICE, WERNER GULDIMANN, DESPITE HIS BEST INTENTIONS CANNOT REMEMBER DETAILS OF THIS MILITARY COOPERATION. AFTER ALL, EIGHTEEN MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. HUMES

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